

## Classical Music in Carbondale, PA

Classical /symphonic music was a regular feature of life in Carbondale, PA in the late-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Shown below is the program for the twentieth concert by the Carbondale Symphony Orchestra, which took place on Wednesday evening, February 12, 1913, under the direction of Leon L. Bly, who was the music teacher at Ben Franklin High School for many years, and who, in his lifetime, was the primary figure in the world of classical music in Carbondale.

The names of the musicians who were members of the Carbondale Symphony Orchestra in 1913 are presented in the program for this February 12, 1913 concert that is given below.



## PROGRAM

1. Coronation March . . . . . *Kretschmer*  
From the Opera "Folkunger"
2. Overture—"Nabucodonosor" . . . . . *Verdi*
3. Concerto IX for Violin with Orchestra . . . . *DeBeriot*  
MISS MAUDE STONE
4. Allegro con grazia from Symphony Pathetique . .  
. . . . . *Tschaikowsky*

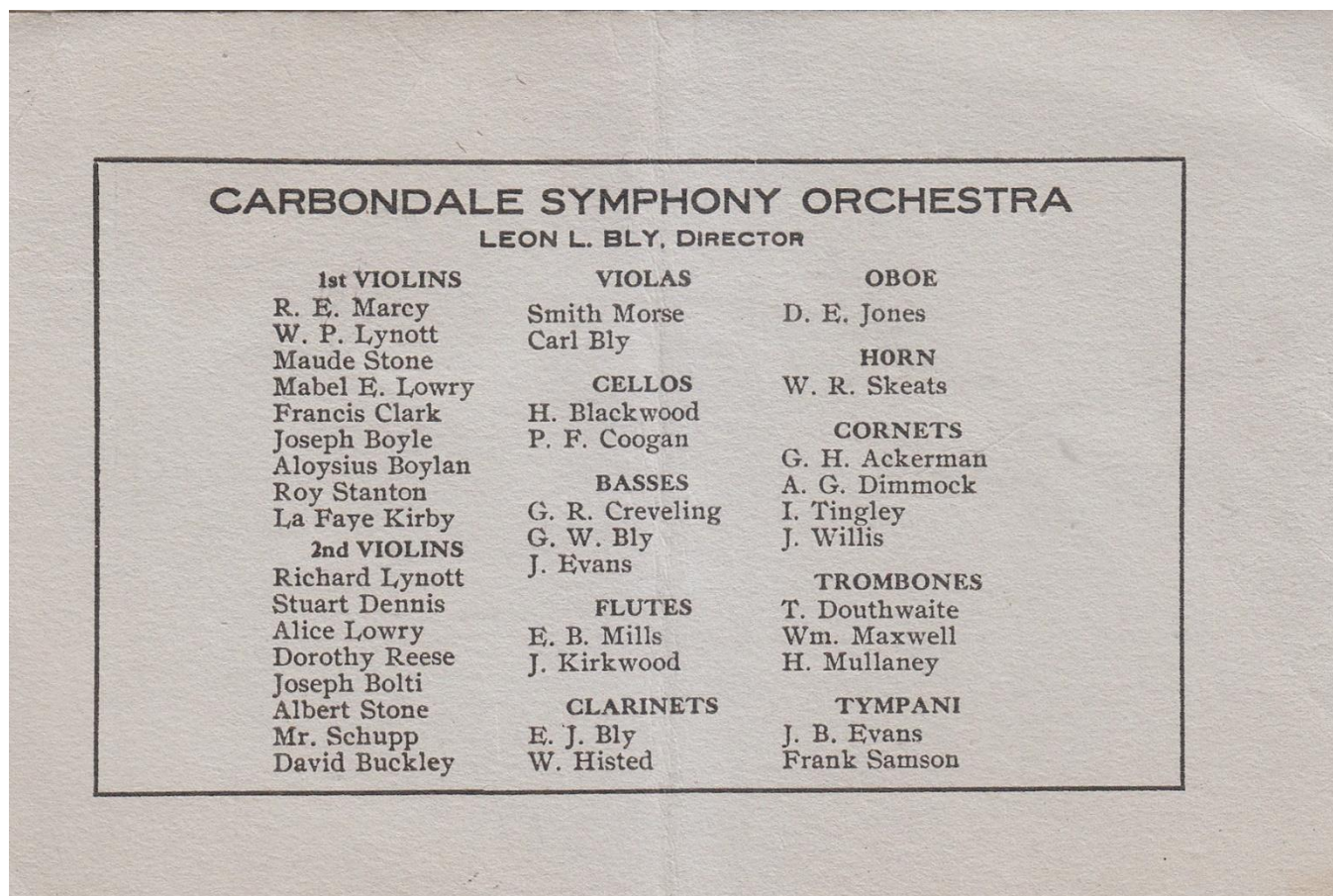
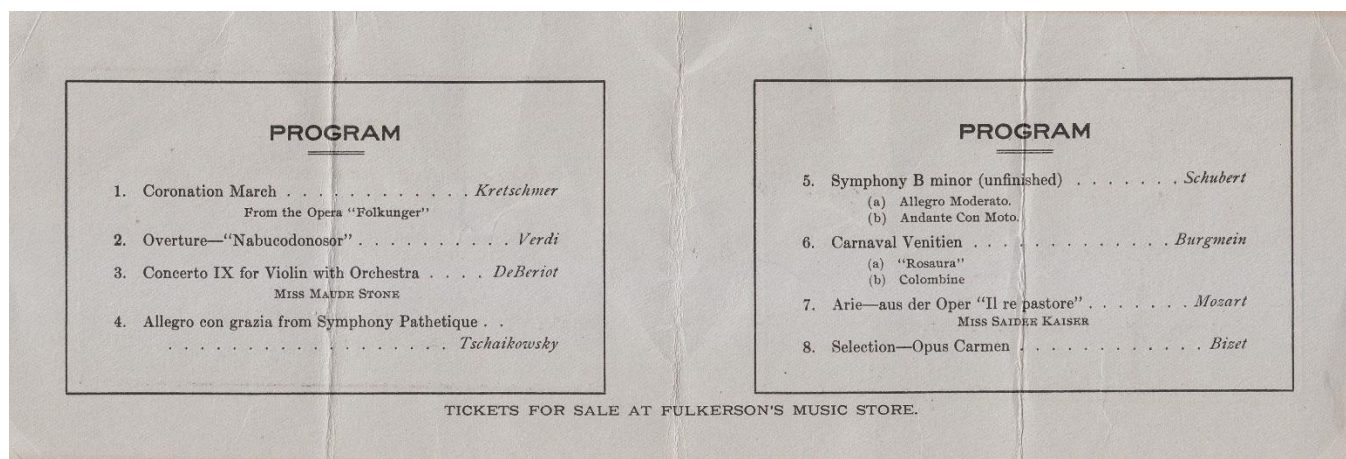
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## PROGRAM

5. Symphony B minor (unfinished) . . . . . *Schubert*  
(a) Allegro Moderato.  
(b) Andante Con Moto.
6. Carnival Venitien . . . . . *Burgmein*  
(a) "Rosaura"  
(b) Colombine
7. Arie—aus der Oper "Il re pastore" . . . . . *Mozart*  
MISS SAIDEE KAISER
8. Selection—Opus Carmen . . . . . *Bizet*

ULKERSON'S MUSIC STORE.





As the music teacher at the Benjamin Franklin High School in Carbondale, Leon L. Bly, not surprisingly, created the Carbondale High School Student Orchestra, which was declared to be "*The Best in the State of PA, 1916-1917.*" A photograph of the Carbondale High School Student Orchestra at that time is presented below.



*Carbondale High School Student Orchestra, "The Best in the State of PA, 1916-1917."* Front row, left to right, Oliver Shifler, Joseph Malone, James Malone and Hayden Evans. Second row, same order, Gerald Price, Joseph McKenna, Madelyn Wyllie, Raymond Wilson, Leon Bly, director; Beatrice Clune, Madolyn Scott, Helen Healey and Norwood Lowry. Back row, same order, John Schaff, not identified, Robert Stuart, Louis Brunner, Harry Mullaney, E. Spencer Russell (trumpet), Edmund Boylan, Clarice Bishop, Rex Brandow, Orville Stephens and Jack Bell.

This wonderful photograph, by the legendary Carbondale photographer, Adon Cramer, was given to the Carbondale Historical Society on May 9, 2011, by Jim Russell, whose father, E. Spencer Russell, played the trumpet, and who can be seen in this photograph.

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Genealogical Note: E. Spencer Russell, who played the trumpet in the Carbondale High School Student Orchestra, was one of the sons of George and Lydia (Spencer) Russell of Carbondale. One of E. Spencer Russell's first cousins was Helen Loomis (Russell) Powell, who was the mother of S. Robert Powell, president of the Carbondale Historical Society and Museum for many years.